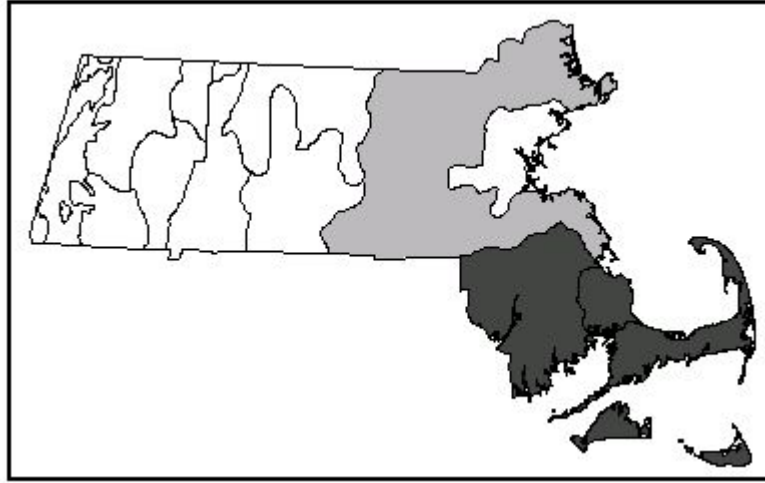


Community Name: MARITIME OAK - HOLLY FOREST / WOODLAND

Community Code: CT1A2A1000

SRANK: S1



Concept: Mixed deciduous/evergreen forest/woodland within the coastal salt spray zone. The trees tend to be short, less than 10 m [about 30 feet].

Environmental Setting: Maritime forests occur along the coast within the area of direct influence of the ocean and salt spray, but not in areas flooded by salt water. They occur on exposed bluffs, backs of dunes, interdunal areas, salt marsh borders, and rocky headlands. Tree tops are sculpted by winds and salt spray. They are best developed where somewhat protected from direct spray by crests of dunes.

Vegetation Description: Trees are usually short relative to interior forests. Scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), other oaks, American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) are commonly present. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) occur in variable amounts. Vines may be dense especially on the edges of openings; dominants include Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and/or grape (*Vitis aestivalis*). Shrubs include bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) and sweet pepper-bush (*Clethra alnifolia*). The herbaceous layer is highly variable, and may include grasses and sedges. Microtopography and local conditions strongly influence the species assemblage. Low (but not as wet as swales) interdunal areas often include species of wetlands such as azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.), viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and high bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). The herbaceous layer of these wetter areas sometimes includes species usually associated with rich, moist sites, such as columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), starry Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), and skunk meadow-rue (*Thalictrum revolutum*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: There are no animal species known to be restricted to maritime forests. Animal species are those of typical coastal oak areas such as the birds Rufous-sided Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Small mammals such as meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), white footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*), and gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) are common in Massachusetts' forests. Moths, butterflies, and other insects of the southeastern oak and oak-pine forest occur in maritime forests. Generally, in more salt influenced environments, fewer animals will be expected. As in all communities on peninsulas such as Cape Cod, or on islands, the more remote occurrences have fewer species than those closer to the mainland sources.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Associated Rare Plants:

TILIA NEGLECTA COASTAL BASSWOOD - WL

Associated Rare Animals:

LITHOPHANE VIRIDIPALLENS PALE GREEN PINION MOTH SC

Examples with Public Access: Sandy Neck, Barnstable; Horseneck Beach SP, Dartmouth.

Threats: Exotics, such as Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), dune stabilization, and roads through the dunes.

Management Needs: Exotic control on the best examples.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Includes: Quercus alba - Quercus (falcata, stellata) Forest Alliance -- Quercus stellata - Q. velutina / Myrica pensylvanica / Deschampsia flexuosa Forest [CEGL006373]; Fagus grandifolia - Quercus alba Forest Alliance -- Fagus grandifolia / Smilax rotundifolia Forest [CEGL006043]; Part of: Quercus alba - (Quercus velutina) Woodland Alliance -- Quercus velutina - Quercus alba / Schizachyrium scoparium Woodland [CEGL006351] AND part of Prunus serotina - Amelanchier canadensis - Quercus spp. Shrubland Alliance -- Prunus serotina - Sassafras albidum - Amelanchier canadensis / Smilax rotundifolia Shrubland [CEGL006145]; and PART OF Pinus rigida / Carex pensylvanica Woodland [CEGL006385], an anthropogenically derived association.

MA (old name): Maritime Forest, Dune Subtype, Deciduous Forest; SNE Maritime Forest on Dunes/Maritime Juniper Forest and SNE Maritime Forest on Uplands/Maritime Oak Forest (in part - also Coastal forest).

ME: Part of Sand dune community.

NH: 1998 - Maritime Dune Forest/Woodland, Prunus serotina-Pinus rigida/Amelanchier/Parthenocissus-Toxicodendron Forest/Woodland.

VT: Not applicable.

NY: Includes: In Part Maritime Oak-Holly Forest, Maritime Oak Forest, and Maritime red cedar forest; includes parts of Successional Maritime forest and Pitch pine- oak heath.

CT: Pinus rigida - Quercus stellata Woodland. And Quercus coccinea- Sassafras albidum.

RI: Within the Pitch Pine - Oak Forest and Oak - Pine Forest. And part of Maritime Shrubland.

Weatherbee: Not applicable.

Author: P. Swain **Date:** 1/26/99